

## CLAIMS:

1. A combined communication and asset locating and tracking system, comprising:
  - a substantially wireless high resolution locating and tracking system including a plurality of receivers configured to be located in different locations in a facility, the different locations including at least one of floors, rooms, corridors, common areas and portions thereof within the facility;
  - a substantially wireless communication system including a plurality of access points and voice-activated communicators; and
  - means for linking the locating and tracking system and the communication system including means for determining a specific location of an asset using a voice command.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the voice-activated communicators are completely hands-free operable by including means for detecting an audible cue to activate the communicator.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the audible cue is a clapping sound.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the audible cue is a verbal command.
5. The system of claim 1, further comprising means for generating an alarm if an asset is near an unauthorized area.
6. The system of claim 1, further comprising means for linking the locating and tracking system and the communication system to non-location information about an asset.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the location is a sub-area within a room of the facility.
8. A system for locating and tracking persons or assets, comprising:
  - a plurality of tags, each tag being configured to be assigned to a person or asset;
  - means for substantially wirelessly transmitting a unique identifier identifying each tag;
  - a plurality of receivers positioned at known locations in a facility, each receiver being configured to detect the unique identifiers for tags positioned near the receiver;

means operably coupled to the plurality of receivers for monitoring the location of the tags in the facility;

a plurality of voice-activated substantially wireless communicators;

5 a plurality of transceivers positioned at known spaced-apart locations in the facility, each transceiver being configured to send and receive communication signals to and from the communicators; and

means for locating and tracking the tags in response to a voice command received by a communicator.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the voice-activated communicators are completely hands-free operable.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the voice command identifies at least one of a person or asset, further comprising means for linking the voice command to location information for the corresponding person or asset.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the voice command identifies at least one of a person or asset, further comprising means for linking the voice command to non- location information about the corresponding person or asset.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the tags and receivers operate using a first substantially wireless transmission means and the communicators and receivers operate using a second substantially wireless transmission means.

20 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the tags and receivers operate using one of radio frequency and infrared transmissions and the communicators and transceivers operate using a voice over IP communications protocol.

14. A method for monitoring the location of persons or assets, comprising the steps of:

25 assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of tags;

assigning each tag to a person or asset;

positioning a plurality of receivers at different locations in a facility;

receiving at the receivers unique identifier transmissions from the tags;

assigning a plurality of communicators to a plurality of persons;

30 assigning a plurality of transceivers to different locations in the facility;

receiving at a transceiver a voice command from one of the plurality of persons, the voice command relating to at least one of the persons and assets;

linking the voice command to the corresponding tag identifier information;  
and

identifying the at least one person or asset in response to the voice command.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

5 detecting the presence of a tag proximate to a secure area;  
detecting a voice command requesting access to the secure area; identifying  
the person associated with the detected tag;

comparing a voice characteristic of the detected voice command with a known  
voice characteristic of the person associated with the detected tag; and

10 granting access to the entry of the secure area if the voice characteristic of the  
detected voice command matches the known voice characteristic of the person  
associated with the detected tag.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

continuously tracking the location of a tag; and

15 initiating a voice message relating to the location of the tag.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of determining whether  
the tag has entered an unauthorized location.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the voice command includes a command  
directed to turning an asset on or off.

20 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of turning the asset on or  
off based on the voice command.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of identifying the location  
of the person or asset based on the voice command.